Acute water shortage

1469. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to face acute water shortage by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quantum of availability of fresh water in the country has dropped drastically as compared to last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of fresh water and its conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Acute water shortage is not anticipated by 2020 for the country as a whole.

(c) No trend has been noticed in respect of reduction in average annual quantum of availability of fresh water in India.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The demand for water for various purposes is increasing due to population growth, urbanization and industrialisation. Therefore the need for the utmost efficiency in water utilisation and a public awareness of the importance of its conservation has been highlighted in the National Water Policy. The National Water Policy states that (a) the water resources should be conserved, (b) water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilisable resources to the maximum possible extent, (c) efficiency of utilisation in all diverse uses of water should be optimised and (d) there is urgent need of paradigm shift in the management of water resources sector. Several measures for development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India is providing assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies, scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells etc.

Mullaperiyar Dam

1470. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Expert Committee report on the deterioration of the upstream face of the Mullaperiyar Dam which has said that there was no alternative other than the construction of new dam downstream to replace the old dam;